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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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CONFIDENTIAL 340

10-23-67 Saigon 9316

PAGE 01 SAIGON 09316 231545Z

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SS 20,GPM 03,SC 01,NSC 10,RSC 01,SAL 01,SAH 03,L 03,H 02,P 04,
INR 07,AID 30,IO 21,RSR 01/128 W

O R 231430Z OCT 67 ZFF-1
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9443
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 4698
CINCPAC
AMCONSUL DANANG 1211
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE 2873

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 9316

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

SUBJ: LOWER HOUSE ELECTIONS

1. DURING OCT 22, A QUIET SUNDAY THAT WAS MARKED BY MINIMAL ENEMY ANTI-ELECTION ACTIVITY, 4,270,794 VOTERS OR 72.9 PCT OF THE REGISTERD VOTERS, CAST THEIR BALLOTS FOR 137 DEPUTIES TO THE LOWER HOUSE. SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT FOR ADMINISTRATION HAS RELEASED THE FOLLOWING VOTER TURNOUT FIGURES BY CORPS:
I CORPS-710,476-77.9 PERCENT
II CORPS-916,386-80.9 PERCENT
MVII CORPS-1,392,097-65.0 PERCENT

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IV CORPS-1,251,835-73.8 PERCENT
NATIONAL-4,270.794-72.9 PERCENT

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Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SAIGON 09316 231545Z

2. DURING THE SEPT 3 PRESIDENTIAL AND UPPER HOUSE ELECTIONS, VOTER TURNOUT WAS, NATIONWIDE, 4,868,266 FOR 83 PERCENT (VOTER REGISTRATION IS THE SAME FOR BOTH ELECTIONS, 5,853,251). SEPT 3 TURNOUT FIGURES:
I CORPS-758,951-85 PERCENT
II CORPS-974,690-88 PERCENT
III CORPS-1,601,346-80 PERCENT
IV CORPS-1,400,417-84 PERCENT
NATIONAL-4,735,404-83 PERCENT

3. WE CONSIDER THIS TURNOUT TO BE VERY SATISFACTORY. THERE WAS A MARKED DECRESE IN GVN GET OUT THE VOTE ACTIVITY, PARTLY BECAUSE OF A GENERAL WEARINESS ON THE PART OF GVN OFFICIALS WITH ELECTIONS. THW WAS, HOWEVER, OFFSET TO SOME DEGREE BY THE INTEREST DISPLAYED BY THE CANDIDATES AND THEIR SUPPORTERS THEMSELVES IN THE LOCAL CAMPAIGNS, WHICH ALTHOUGH SHORT WERE BY AND LARGE VIGOROUSLY CONDUCTED.

4. LOW VOTER TURNOUT FIGURES WER AS USUAL REGISTERED IN SAIGON (57.8 PERCENT) AND GIA DINH (64.5 PERCENT). URBAN

PAGE 3 RUMJIR 9316 C O N F I D E N T I A L
VOTERS ARE MORE APATHTIC, LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO MOTIVATION AND GENERALLY MORE CYNICAL THAN THOSE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, IN VIETNAM AS ELSEWHERE. WITHOUT THE LOW TURNOUT IN THE SAIGON AREA NATIONWIDE TURNOUT AVERAGE WOULD HAVE BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY HIGHER.

5. SPECIAL COMMISSARIAT FOR ADMINISTATION BY 6:00 O'CLOCK THIS EVENING HAD POSTED "INITIAL FINAL" RESULTS FROM 35 OF THE 53 CONSTITUENCIES WHICH ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LOWER HOUSE YESTERDAY. WE HAVE FORWARDED TO THE DEPT THE NAMES OF APPROXIMAELY 50 WINNERS, PLUS RESUMES OF THE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WE HAVE ON THEM. WE WILL OF COURSE REPORT ALL THIS INFORMATION AS IT BECOMES AVAILABLE, BUT IT MAY BE LATE TOMORROW BEFORE THE LAST RETURNS ARE IN. ALTHOUGH IT IS TO EARLY TO ESTIMATE THE COMPOSITION OF THE LOWER HOUSE, WITH ANY PRECISION, THERE ARE SOME TRENDS

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 SAIGON 09316 231545Z

BEGINNING TO EMERGE WHICH WE CAN COMMENT UPON AT THIS POINT.

A) THE NEW LOWER HOUSE MEMBERS SEEM TO BE YOUNG, AT LEAST AS YOUNG AS THOSE OF THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, WHOSE AVERAGE AGE WAS ABOUT 41.

B) FORMER CA DEPUTIES ARE NOT DOING VERY WELL. WITH

PAGE 4 RUMJIR 9316 C O N F I D E N T I A L
BETWEEN 45 AND 50 FORMER CA DEPUTIES IN THE RACE, WE KNOW OF ONLY ABOUT 10 WHO HAVE BEEN ELECTED SO FAR.

C) THERE ARE A GOOD NUMBER OF CATHOLICS AND ARMY OFFICERS WINNING, BUT IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY TO WHAT DEGREE TOSE SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS WILL BE REPRESENTED.

D) CANDIDATES BACKED BY THE CENTRAL VIETNAMESE LABOR FEDERATION DO NOT SEEM TO BE DOING WELL. THE SAME CAN BE CAN BE SAID FOR THE NUMEROUS LIST FIELDED BY GENERAL TRAN VAN DON'S FARMER-WORKER-LABOR GROUP.

E) NO WINNER HAS YET BEEN IDENTIFIED USING THE "DOVE" SYMBOL POPULARIZED BY PRESIDENTIAL CONTENDER TRUONG DINH DZU, NOR HAVE THOSE WHO FOCUSSED THEIR CAMPAIGNS LARGELY ON THE PEACE ISSUE TO THE EXCLUSION OF OTHER RELEVANT ISSUES DONE WELL. THERE WAS GOOD DEAL OF TALK ABOUT PEACE DURING THE CAMPAIGN, AND IT IS EVIDENT THAT PEACE IS AN ISSUE WHICH HAS BEEN TAKEN SERIOUSLY. BUT THOSE CANDIDATES WHO HAVE BEEN ELECTED HAVE BY AND LARGE BEEN THOSE WHO HAVE DEALT WITH THIS CRUCIAL ISSUE RESPONSIBLY.

F. THERE WAS SOME EVIDENCE OF ANTI-AMERICANISM, OR AT LEAST A HEIGHTENED AND MORE ARTICULATE NATIONA LSENSITIVITY

PAGE 5 RUMJIR 9316 C O N F I D E N T I A L
ON THE PART OF THE VIETNAMESE, IN THE ELECTION CAMPAIGNING. NO "ANTI-AMERICAN" CANDIDATE IS KNOWN TO HAVE WON BUT WE CAN

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Department of State **TELEGRAM**

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 09316 231545Z

EXPECT TO HEAR THESE MATTERS DISCUSSED ON THE FLOOR OF THE NEW ASSEMBLY.

6. AMONG THOSE WHOSE VICTORIES HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED SO FAR, THERE ARE SOME WORTHY OF SPECIAL MENTION:

A) LY QUI CHUNG, IN SAIGON, A DYNAMIC YOUNG LEADER OF THE MRS:

B) HO HUU TUONG, BUDDHIST, IN SAIGON, CONSIDERED BY SOME TO BE RADICAL, HE WILL ATTRACT A LOT OF ATTENTION FROM THE PRESS (SOME NEWSMEN ARE ALREADY SAYING HE WILL PLAY A PROMINENT ROLE IN THE LOWHHHOUSE);

C) HO VAN MINH AND HO NGOC NHUAN, BOTH OF WHOM ARE LEADERS IN THE NEW LIFE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM IN SAIGON DISTRICTS 6 AND 8.

D) FIVE EX-PROVINCE CHIEFS (OF AT LEAST SEVEN WHO RAN) ARE KNOWN TO HAVE WON SO FAR (NONE ARE KNOWN TO HAVE LOST).

E) AT LEAST TWO DEFEATED CANDIDATES FOR THE UPPER HOUSE, HUYNH VAN LAU, HOA HAO FROM CHAU DOC, AND NGUEYN HUU THONG, GIA DINH, APPEAR TO HAVE WON;

F) THE YOUNGEST MAN IN THE RACE HAS WON. HE IS A 25 YEAR OLD SCHOOL TEACHER FROM BAC LIEU.

PAGE 6 RUMJIR 9316 C O N F I D E N T I A L
G) TRUONG VI TRI, SAIGON, WHO WAS ALSO TOUTED AS THE YOUNGEST CANDIDATE, WON IN CHOLON. HE APPARENTLY IS A MONTH OLDER THAN THE BAC LIEU SCHOOL TEACHER.

7. THE "INTIAL FINAL" FESULTS AS ANNOUNCED BY THE SCA ARE OF COURSE SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION, FIRST BY THE LOCAL ELECTION COUNCILS IN EACH ELECTORAL JURISDICTION. THESE MUST PUBLISH THEIR FINDINGS ON OCT 26. THERAFTER, WHILE THER COULD BE FUTHER REVIEW OF SOME DISPUTED CASES BY THE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 SAIGON 09316 231545Z

COURTS, PROCEDURES CALL FOR THE PROMPT FORWARDING OF ALL FINDINGS AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION TO THE LOWER HOUSE, WHICH ITSELF ACTS TO VALIDATE THE ELECTION OF ITS OWN MEMBERS. WHILE THERE MAY BE SOME CHALLENGES TO THESE RESULTS, AND IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT INONE OR TWO INSTANCES AN ELECTION COULD BE INVALIDATED, WE DO NOT EXPECT THAT CHALLENGES WILL BE NUMEROUS. MOST OF THESE RESULTS WILL STAND.

8. THERE ARE OUR PRELIMINARY IMPRESSIONS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REFINE OUR ANALYSIS OF THE LOWER HOUSE OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

GP-3 BUNKER